

BARTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

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GREAT BEND, KANSAS, FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1900.

NUMBER 12.

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WILLIAM J. BRYAN--THE MAN.

The moral passion which dominates and enfolds Mr. Bryan's public life is also the key to his private character. When Cicero spoke the people said, "How eloquent is Cicero!" but when Demosthenes spoke the people said, "Let us go against Philip." There is something about Mr. Bryan that makes all who associate with him more earnest, more ready to make sacrifices, more indifferent to mere abuse and more intensely and peculiarly American. There are no secrets in his life. To be with him is like walking on the seashore in the sunlight. At 40 he has still the unsullied ideals, the unbroken faith of a boy. And any man may be his comrade if he will—nay, his very brother.

The other night in Chicago a committee of strangers called to escort Mr. Bryan to a public banquet. Mr. Bryan went on shaving himself before a mirror while he talked to the committee and presently his visitors were busy putting the studs in his shirt bosom. An hour or two later he soared out of himself in a really great oration, lifting his hearers to the supreme heights of patriotic thought—an appeal for a republic so just in all its ways, so majestic in its virtue, that all the nations of the world would turn to it as the arbitrator of their differences.

Mr. Bryan is temperance incarnate. He loves literature rather than art, the trout stream rather than the theater, the farm rather than the city, the small church rather than the cathedral. He loves men more than books and books more than money.

There was a time when Mr. Bryan felt that someday the crimes of lawless wealth and rapacious corporate power against the toilers of the country would bring on a physical struggle, and in those days Mr. Bryan was a gladiator, with the fierce unforgiving spirit of a gladiator. But a new tenderness of spirit has come into his life. He seems filled with the idea that love is the only uplifting force in the world, and that love is as necessary and as natural in politics and statesmanship as in private affairs.

I have heard him talk of his enemies without a word of bitterness. I have heard him defend Mr. McKinley from unjust attacks. He loathes and avoids personalities or abuse in conversation. This is one of the noblest and most attractive traits in his personal life. He is decent and tolerant in his speech; fair, just, even tempered.

Two days ago a distinguished woman said to me: "You have associated with Mr. Bryan a great deal. Isn't it a fact that he is provincial, that he has not polish enough for the White house?" It is true that Mr. Bryan is provincial, but only in the sense that Abraham Lincoln was provincial. He is careless of his clothes but careful of his morals.

He cannot speak French or lead a cotillon, but he can give you in the purest and sweetest English the story of the struggle of man for liberty in every age, and familiar with the solid literature of the world. He has the outwardness of a man who is

big of mind as well as of body.

There is the ruggedness of truth in all his ways. He lives simply and sometimes frugally, not because he cares for money or because he does not know that there are other and more extravagant ways of living, but because his tastes are simple. The very simplicity of his life and speech is a corollary of his native dignity. His quaint points are the quaintnesses of his country.

Like Lincoln, his peculiarities are the signs of his pure and undiluted Americanism. Nothing can be more graceful than his unaffected, sincere home life. It may be true that many of the present elements of social life in the White house would be modified if Mr. Bryan should be elected president, but he would bring to that place the glory of a manhood that it has not known for many years. He will attract to the White house scholars, statesmen and philosophers, rather than money changers or political harlots. And the humblest man in the nation would have access to the president.

I have met almost every great man of my own time in the principal countries of the world, but I have never met a greater man than Mr. Bryan. As a rule, one finds the idealist a man of frail body, physically incapable of making a continuous struggle. But here is an incorruptible idealist with the physical strength of an ox. Nowhere in the world is there to be found a more perfect combination of mind, spirit and body. The three are evenly balanced in the democratic leader—mental energy controlled by intelligence, imagination inspired by philanthropy, virility disciplined by virtue. He seems to grow broader and deeper every year. His religious convictions are vital to him, yet but he avoids religious discussions. He seems to feel that religion is a private thing between a man and his God. "We are all trying to cast out devils," he says, "and each man works in his own way."

Four years ago Mr. Bryan was a western man. Today he is national—almost international. Then he was an agitator; now he is a statesman. His life and conduct are based on what he believes to be the truth, and nothing can induce him to abandon a cause if he believes it to be right.

"And yet," he said only a week ago, "I would be a fool if I did not rejoice in the triumph of right rather than in the triumph of what I believe to be right."

James Greelman in New York Journal.

From now on the republican politicians will be crying "have confidence in our administration." Confidence! Yes, we are a confiding people. In 1896 thousands of republicans "had confidence" that their leaders were sincere in the claim that the rep. party was the only real friend of silver and would restore it through international agreement. But they now see that they have been "confided." Thousands of working men had confidence that the republicans would increase their wages and cheapen the prices of their necessities. They also were "buncoed." Other thousands of farmers and producers hoped—had confidence—that the republicans would increase the prices of their products and decrease the prices of the machinery and necessities of life they had to buy. They too have found themselves gloriously rebuffed with cheaper wheat and dearer machinery. How much longer will Hanna's hangers-on be able to work their wholesale "confidence" game upon the public, while they rob in the postal department, the military department and the tariff and revenue department?

JERRY SIMPSON says "it will be Bryan, Breidenthal, and Business."

If THE Sultan of Turkey don't pay up that little balance Uncle Sam will—but, stop; what WILL Uncle Sam do? McKinley has not yet had the nerve to say.

"Cuba is haggard, Porto Rico beggared, and both carpetbagged," says the Kansas City Times. And by the same token, the administration of McKinley is terribly jiggered.

PRESIDENT McKINLEY has pardoned thirty-four convicted bank embezzlers. But Gov. Stanley would not pardon Pool Grinstead, the victim of Boss Leland's wrath. McKinley dared to favor his republican friends, but Stanley did not dare to disfavor his republican boss.

WHILE those Cuban officials who have been stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars from the military ruled Cubans are not honest men, they are all staunch republicans, and supporters of Hanna and McKinley. Therefore a whole lot of whitewash will be used before they are forgotten by the public.

SENATOR Hale, in a tilt with Spooner over the Cuban postal steal, in the Senate last week, said he was "not one of that kind of republicans who believed it was necessary to endorse stealing to maintain a standing in the party," leaving the very broad inference that Spooner, the administration cuckoo, was "that kind" of a republican.

THE Treasury Department recently declared that the per capita circulation of the United States was about \$26. Now Secretary Gage says that the gold stock is some \$400,000,000 less than had been estimated, and is trying to figure out where that little item of \$400,000,000 in gold has got to. Look in Hanna's inside vest pocket, Lyman; that four hundred million may be salted down for campaign purposes.

ON MONDAY, May 21st, the supreme court decided that Governor Beckham is the right governor of Kentucky. There is no appeal from this decision, and Ex-Gov. Taylor and the other Goebel-killers will have to take their medicine. There never was, at any time, any doubt but that the supreme court would thus decide; but the Taylor following drug the matter along in the hope that the national administration would get as crazy as did the Kentucky republicans, and interfere, with the national troops.

THERE are plenty of candidates who will be before the conventions tomorrow; plenty of good, competent timber out of which the delegates will be called upon to select the best. There is general belief that this year the combined forces opposed to republican imperialism, militarism, trusts and money combines will sweep Barton county by from 200 to 400 majority, and a nomination by the allied forces is therefore equivalent to an election. All the DEMOCRAT asks that honest, capable men be named, and that all voters opposed to latter day republicanism turn out to help elect them.

The per capita circulation of the country was \$26.58 on May 1st. It was only \$21.10 when Bryan was nominated in 1896. The failure of free silver has certainly not checked the circulation.—Hutchinson News.

BE HONEST now brother, and tell your readers the whole truth of this per capita matter. Tell your readers that Secretary Gage has stated that an error of four hundred million dollars was made in estimating the circulating medium for the May 1st statement, and that as a matter of fact the per capita of money is only \$20, instead of \$26.58—just \$1.10 a head LESS than "when Bryan was nominated in 1896."



For President in 1900, COL. WILLIAM J. BRYAN.

For Congressman, 7th District, CLAUD DUVAL.

For Senator, 35th District, GEORGE B. ROSS.

HON. CHARLES A. TOWNE.

The People's party of the United States in national convention assembled at Sioux Falls, S. Dak., on the 10th inst., nominated Hon. Charles A. Towne, of Minnesota, for the office of Vice-President of the United States. The nomination was not only unsolicited by Mr. Towne, but was made against his advice and without his consent. The compliment to Mr. Towne, under the circumstances, is the highest within the power of a great political party to pay, because it designated him as the man who, next to Mr. Bryan, is the choice of the People's party for the Presidency. But the token of love and esteem embodied in his nomination for this high office but faintly expresses the high regard in which Mr. Towne is held by the membership of the Sioux Falls convention and the people whom they represent. It is well known that it was the desire and purpose of the Sioux Falls convention to effect a perfect union of forces and secure the most harmonious co-operation with the Democratic party in the coming campaign. It was not their desire or purpose to have two candidates for the Vice-Presidency, as in 1896, and believing that Mr. Towne, although not a member of their own party, because of his great ability, pure character, and unselfish devotion to Democratic principles commanded the respect and admiration of all and indulging the hope that all parties would unite upon him he was given the nomination by them, and by so doing Mr. Towne was made the trustee of their honor and patriotic purposes.

The trust reposed in Mr. Towne will be sacredly carried out, and whether the Democrats at Kan. City select him as their candidate for Vice-President or nominate some other person for that high office, one thing is sure, which is that but one candidate will be voted for by the allied forces against Hannaism in the November election.

Mr. Towne walked out of the Republican convention in 1896 along with Senators Teller and Dubois and Representative Hartman. In so doing his motives were above suspicion. In one of the greatest speeches ever delivered in the house of Representatives he pointed out to his party the plain path of duty that lay before it and made it evident to the country that he would refuse to stultify his conscience and reason and go with his party into abject servitude to the money kings and trusts.

Mr. Towne was elected to Congress as a Republican in 1894 by a majority of ten thousand. His district and state were both Republican strong holds and there was no office within the gift of either that did not await him if he would but bend the pregnant hinges of the knee that might follow fawning. But a single term in Congress was sufficient to reveal to Mr. Towne the true situation, and spurning the rewards that must follow self abasement he manfully took up the people's side, and next to Mr. Bryan himself there is no American more respected and loved by the farmers, toilers, and tax payers of America than Towne, of Minnesota.

Mr. Towne has but few equals as an orator. His diction is perfect and chaste, and reminds one of Edward Everett, while his delivery is both forceful and graceful. With Bryan and John W. Daniel, of Virginia, he stands in the front ranks of American statesmen and orators. Mr. Towne is a big man and one that the American people have use for and will make use of. There is no office within the gift of the people that he would not worthily fill.

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